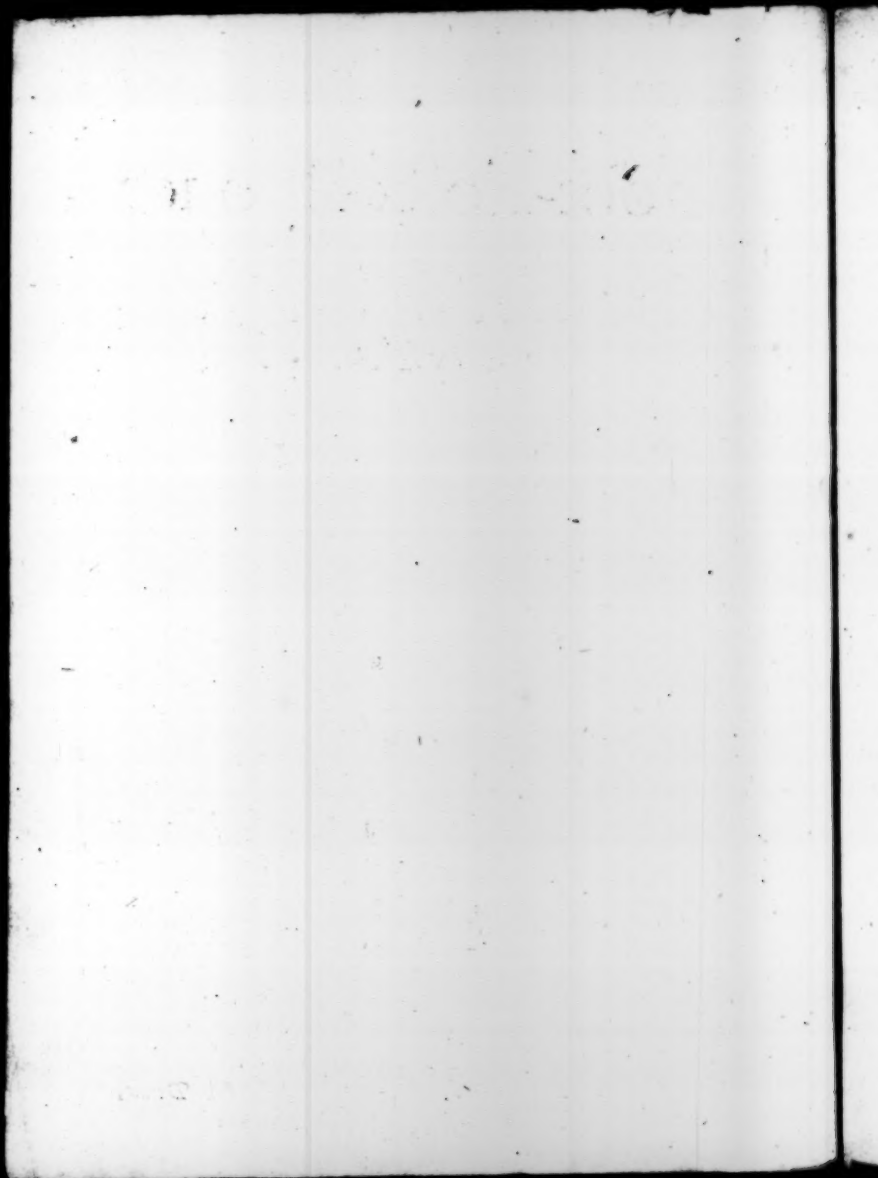


THE Foot-Post of Douer.

With his
Packet stufte full of strange and
merry *Petitions.*



LONDON,
Printed by Edw. Allde, and are to be solde by Iohn Deane,
dwelling iust vnder Temple barre. 1616.





A STRANGE FOOTE-
POST, WITH A PACKET
full of madde Petitions.

TWAS about that time of 8 yeare when
8 Spring begins to comānd her hand-
maide Flora, to sticke the bosome of
euery watry maedole, & sedgie lake,
with nosegayes of party coloured flo-
wers: hauing dulled my spirits with
serious meditations, and plunged my
senses in the quicksands of Inuention,
as well, to shake of a sullen Melancho-
ly that attended me, as to entertaine some quicke, and more
publicke recreation: I walked into a neighbouring meade,
where it was my chance to light vpon an Arbo: so prinately
seated, as if Nature had built it a Caue, or receptacle for So-
litude: inuironed so close, with the long and slender armes
of Osiers, and so curiously intermingled with the leamy fin-
gers of Woodbine, and swete Eglantine, that neither cold
nor raine could easily pierce it. In whose windowes, the fea-
thered Quiristers of the groue, skipping from twig to twig,
song pretty (though idle) notes, to the murmure of a silver
spring, which made such soft and solemne Musicke, that
what with wondering, at the more then common worke-
manship of Art, and the Metaphisicall indeanours of Nature,
in their ignorant (yet well according) Harmony. Leaning my
hand vpon my elbow, (being at that time destitute of a softer
pillow) I fell into a sodaine, yet sound sleepe, during
which, my imaginary insight apprehended a most strange
vision.

A strange Foot-Post.

The descrip-
tion of Opini-
on.

As I thought I was elevated into the Zodiack, where I like a Stranger cast upon a forrain Coast, I was stricken with vn-bitterable admiration, wondering at the strange objects I beheld. Gazing thus on every side, like a Countrey Gentlewoman at her first coming to a famous City, one clapt me upon the head, whose very sight did much affright me, that it was enough to haue put me out of the wit I had: For the party I speake of was headed like Hydra, hauing more Tongues, then Escop provided for his Waiters dinner: and for eyes, he was no Cyclops, or Polypheme, but an other Argus: The clothes he wore, were for all the world fashioned like a fantastickall Englishmans, a gallimaufry of most Countrey cuts, but not of one Cloath, Stoffe, Sattin, Veluet, &c. as theirs are: For of one, two, three, foure colour &c, as for the most part theirs are; but here a peece of Veluet, there a peece of Wellure, here a peece of Sattin, there a peece of Buckcloath, filled with sundry patches of seuerall patternes, like a Taylors hole, or rather Well, whereinto he casteth many bodies of men and women.

This Monster seeing me so pittifully perplexed, told me that he was not so terrible as he seemed and that his name was Opinion, so Headed, Eighted, Tongued and arraied, to shew the multiplicity, variety, and contrariety of mens Opinions, Fantasies, and Concepts: And that the place wherein I then was, was named the Metropolitane Cittie of the World, seeming in vnb like Heauen it selfe, inhabited by Spirits of all sortes, adorned with Sunne and Moone, like a contributarie King and Quene, Girt about with all the signes of the Zodiack: garnished with Planets, which like Rulers ouerswayed Sublunary Creatures: Beautified with Starres of three sortes, wherof some were learned Fixæ, resembling vertuous and constant women, keeping in their Sphæres, as in their houses. Others Errantes, wandering Starres, gadding like Gossips, which ride from Citties to Countreies, running from their owne Mansions to Tavernes, from their husbands bosoms to other mens beds.

The

A strange Foot-post.

2

The third, Cadence, that is, falling starres, wherewith
 wantons may be compared, which fall from the Heaven of
 Honesty, to the immovable mass of Spite-mourne and
 Curiosity: Forthwith he led mee through many Lanes and
 thew me the signes as wee passed along the heaven streets:
 Here (said hee) is Aries, the signe of the Ramme: What the
 Ramme in frost-frost thought I: This is Cancer the signe of
 the Crabbe: Here is Virgo, the signe of the Maide: What is
 a rare signe indeede, many a young beginner would be glad
 to dwell at that signe: This is Scorpio, the signe of the Scorp-
 pion, a venomous Serpent which hurteth with the taile:
 What is Capricornus, the signe of the Goats head, some
 Cuckolds languisheth there, while his wife laugheth abroad:
 This is Gemini the signe of the Twinnes, there dwelleth a
 god member in the Commonwealt, which getteth two at
 once: Here is Leo the signe of the Lyon: There is Libra,
 the signe of the paire of Scales: Terra Astras reliquit,
 Iustice hath forsaken the Earth, and keepeth Hoop there:
 What is Sagittarius the signe of the Archer, blinde Cupid
 maketh bird-bolts there to dayle Woodcocks: This is A-
 quarius, the signe of the Water-bearer, I supposed at first a
 Wintener dwelled there, which carrieth so much water to
 quench the fire, which would else rise out of his Seller, till
 I gazed for a Bush and could see none, but the bush Beard of
 a Jewer: After he conducted me by the season Planets,
 season Gates of this Cittie: The first and lowest he called
 Luna, which being then in the Eclipse, I named the Postern
 Gate shut close: The second Sol the Sunne, which I resem-
 bled to Mooregate, because it is more delicious and pleasant
 then the Moon, with beames and rayes, or rather rayes
 on the moon: The third Mercury the God of Thieues,
 Cheaters, Symble-fingered-followers, which made me call
 it Newgate: The fourth Venus, the Goddess of Love,
 which I named Allgate, because all got thorough that
 Gate: The fifth Mars, which I named Hornly like King Lud,
 whose horn asport at that time brought to my conceit that

The Postern

Mooregate.

Newgate.

Algate.

Ludgate.

A strange Foot-Post.

Aldersgate.

Cripplegate.

Bishops gate.

I heard a Sergeant was dragging mee to Lud-Gate: The first Iupiter, which I surmise to be Alders-gate: The seventh Saturne, olde, sable, and decrepit, which I thought might somewhat fitly be nominated Cripple-gate: Are here all said I: I have one gate yet, standing voyd to bee shut vp with a similitude: What gate is that said Opinion? It is Bishops-gate said I. Some Philosophers call it about it said Opinion. But Aristotle and Plato make reckoning of an eight, which is called Sphæra octaua, that is, the firmament containing the fixed starres. Why then this Sphæra Octaua is Bishoppgate, containing all the fixed starres: that is, the faithfull Ministers. And the Philosophers which call it about it, are none but contentious Brownists, and Separatists: which because the eyes of their true vnderstanding are plackt out, would plucke the whole house vpon their owne heads, to the ouerthrow of the Rulers. But let these Byases passe by like asses, with bag & baggage to Anser-dame, so long as we haue Aristotle the Prince of Philosophers, and Plato the Diuine on our sides. Our gardens will prosper the better when they haue in them not one of these Elders, whereupon so many conetous Iudasies hang themselves.

By this time we had passed through all the Planets set about with stars, like so many gates with watchmen; & were entred into the aire, the heauens suburbs: Here (quoth Opinion) you may daily behold diuers that passe to & fro from all parts to present their seuerall petitions to Fortune, & imploze her aide for some good hap: which many times they obtaine, if their petitions go not through many hands: for then they are either lost or torn, or come to some friends hands, against whom they are preferred; and the petitioners are rejected and called sceditious Trauerses, and go home perhaps an hundred miles with a flea in their earre.

Then me thought I was very importunate to knowe the seuerall suiters, that become so suppliant to Fortune: and euen as Opinion was telling me he would certifie me of them in order, Behold (quoth he) yonder is one that hath a place, that

A strange Foote-Post.

3

that ministers matter to give you some satisfaction. And as
I was thus giving my attendance, and obseruation, I might
see a feimall courting, indeed a peart she she was, as ready to
give the welcome to her customers, as a boy in a barre; and
as nimble as a Parasite in an old Comedie.

The harlot passeth by them.

F Hee upon her, (said I) she will neuer haue good successe in
her suite, she hath such Anticke attire; and doth so trip &
go with her Petition: What a woman of tall stature, and by-
right body: (would she were as vp-right in her life & behaui-
our) high browes, faire haire: (hath she not robbed the dead
for it) round cheeks, curvall lips, dimpled chin, steeke necke, &
slender waiste: Was good if they be not hooks to draw men in, &
birdlime to tie the feathers of euery stranger, that none may
escape them: But I feare she is (as some say of wanton wo-
men) like Circes witches; and can turne baine glorious soles
into Ases, gluttonous soles into swine, pleasant soles in-
to Apes, proud soles into Ases, and when she hath done,
scourge them out of dozes with a whip.

The Harlot.

This is one (said Opinion) whose face is a painted Sepul-
cher, whereas her mind is a Tombe full of rotten bones and
Serpents: her browes (like the Diamond) containe vertue
to relieue, and poyson to kill: her looks are like Calenders,
that can determine no certainty, but (as a certaine lease)
which is most drye, when it looks most moist: so when she
smiles, she imagines deceit, and her laughers are tempered
with enuy, & reuenge: her vows are but as words withen in
the wind: her promises Characters figured in the air, ether Ant-
teries, figures graven in the Snow, which are blotted with
the wind or melted with the Sun: and her love, like the pas-
sage of a Serpent ouer a stone, which once past, can neuer be
same. She will promise mountains, and performe Molehills.
She will say she loues with Dido; and yet same with Cressi-
da, Iolloim Demophon with Phillis, and yet be more strag-
ling

The Opinion
of a Harlot.

A strange Foot-post.

ling thou Luna: she hath smiles (at her wish) to bewitch, and
teares (at command) as the Crocodile, to betray. If thou
proffer her any thing, she will purchase all: if thou hast gold,
she is a Hoyleach, and will not out of thy bosome: but she
hates an empty purse, as the Hyenna doth the sight of a man,
and wil flie from thee, when thou art poore, as the soule from
the Fanlon. In plaine termes, she is a proud prophane Har-
lot. And were she not prophane, what Atheist would frequent
her: were she not bawdy, what Puncquarero would shew his
rotten teeth to her: Were she not ridiculous, what countray
Gentiles would come to here: Were she not full of toyes and
gimagawes, what Citizens would flocke to her: In a word,
Were she not, as she is, she would be like a Politician with-
out a profound head, like a flatterer without a glib tongue,
like an Astronomer without eyes, a Musitian without hear-
ing, a Souldier without hands, a Porter without a strong
backe, a Gentleman'sher without straited legs, a Lachey
without fete, in no reputation. But it is not so with her, for
she is a Boas Roga: and the Petition which she comes to pre-
sent, must needs (no doubt) bring some good fruite, from that
corrupt tree.

The Harlots
Petition.

Vouchsafe to looke vpon the lines of your humble Petitioner, who from fifteene yeares of age hath hene a woman of
no carriage, liuing alwaies chaste both in towne and countrey,
and haue had much dealing with many of great ability, till of
late, that I failed of your furtherance, and missed many of my
customers. For whom, when I made a seeret inquisition, and
priuie search (fearing they had made a voyage to settle them-
selues in *Virginia*) I met some of them prepared for Tiburne,
others I found enconntred with Couaters, and some laid vp
in houses of Hospitalitie: which v unexpected sight did so ap-
pale me, that forthwith I thought good to present this Peti-
tion vnto you: requesting that such as are my welwillers, may
haue some longer continuance of your fauours, and not cast so
sodainly of your frownes, (which will be my viter vndoing)
so long as they haue moncy or mates. But when they are de-

strute

A strange Foote-Post.

Figure of both, then cast them off, let them steale and be hanged: which if they deny, I wish you send them farre enough: for there is nothing more combersome, then impecunious hanging on.

There be also some of the officious (to whom I wish none of your fauours) as the onely causers of our ouerthrowes. For they hup vs like Hares, & ferrit vs like Conyes. They tie vs to stakes like Beares, and whip vs like Iades. They driue vs from post to piller, that were we not predestinate as it were to liue chaste, they would compell vs euen against our Fate to become chaste, they do so chase vs from countrey to citie, from citie to suburbs, from houses and husbands, to cousens and allies, where we leade a life like brute beasts among grasse, trees; &c. Or liue like the old water-Nymphs, or Fairies (which pinched poore men) in wells & ditches. As Shorditch & Clarkenwell. I therefore sue to haue an *Habeas Corpus* serued vpon them, especially certaine little Animals, called Beagles, who seeing poore Does prostrate before their scete, haue notwithstanding the heart to hurt, and draw blood from their ribbes and shoulders.

Where there is one of these officers, I would there were twentie.

Maddona Meretrix.

The Baude cometh to the Harlot.

GDe thy waies, thy fooles bolt is shot a Cook height against the Harres, which will light upon thine owne head. Were it a Petition indeed, if all Petitions should be granted. But there is another come vnto her, she should be a pong woman by her great belly: but now she paimeth, I see the marke is out of her mouth, she tallotheth like a sow with pigge, talketh very imperiously, & is clad most modestly. But I mislike one thing, she rougheth so sorely, are her lungs sound?

The Baude.

Out vpon her (said Opinion,) though she speak purely, sweare sparingly, looke demurely, and walke sagely, yet her life is loathsome, and behauioz beastly. She hath her roguish

The opinion of a Baude.

Rhetoricke

A Strange Foot-Post.

Rhetorick at her fingers ends, and can twinch, kicke, and sing when she seeth her opportunity. Who goeth to the Church with an ill will, vntil she to picke a pocket, or to pervert some honest mans wife she is pured withall. But she will bestir her heels to get easie rowne in a Theater; and twenty to one she will lure some Husard to dogge her home at the end of the Play. She liueth by vsury, but here is the difference: the vsurer putteth but ten (ouer & aboue) to his hundred in the yeare. But she brings an hundred to ten, nay to two sometimes in a weeke. Abhominable filth as this is, I wish she to stop thy eares at her wordes, for she is a Mer-maide, or rather Mar-maide.

A filthy Bande.

The Spendall passeth along.

The Spendall.

Rome for a Gentleman, mark the motion my Galliers: His dublet is of the ragged tanke, with neuer a button on it, and his breeches are very faulty, they must be mended, I maruell he buyeth himselfe no better cloathes now his rents begin to come in so fast: foure paire of yarn stockings would make no great shew vpon those spindle shankes: he looketh very Lentenly and cometh halting on.

The Opinion
of the Spendall

This tottered Colt (said Opinion) which once had high desires, hath now lowe fortunes; his thoughts were woont to reach at starres, but now stumble at stones. He was his fathers dotage, and his Spawne darling: a toward Springall you will say, when he lay with his mothers Chambermaide at Arkestone: and an out ward Spendall, when he had laubied the first part of a Million before he knew five and twentie Birth dayes. He did of late swim in gluttonny, but now is pinched with penury. He was woont to deuise what to eat, and is now destitute of any food. He hath woone more vpon his backe then the gold (which procured passage for the Ass into the Castle) would defray. His quondam full sodding ma-
beth him now look so empty. His drinking to many healths hath taken all health from him: his so often leaping the pale, causeth him look so pale: his close following the fashion, bringeth

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bringeth him now (as you see) out of all forme and fashion: had he taken time before he might have lodged in an house like a pallace, as he doth now in a place like a prison, lying like a Nutmeg in a Grate, being the Embleme of birthriffinnesse, the Hieroglyphicke of Riot, the picture of the Prodigall, and the Indiuidium vagum of a poore pitifull pennilesse Spendall.

I Most humbly sueth a cashierd Cavalier, no Gentleman yet a knights sonne and heire, being richly bequeathed, and well mannered, consoorted with men of choice fashion, with women of famous report: much indebted to merchants, and greatly bound to their wiues. But at last wanting present meanes to repay the one, and competent matter to come euen with the other, which did put me to my plunges, that I was constrained to colleague with a Miser, *Qui nummos admistrat*: An vsurer that doth make much of money, who vpon some consideration of my good conditions did supply me for a time, but when Doomes-day came, that I should render an account for all, all was gone, my lands were seiled vpon, my credite ceased, and I clapped vp amongst Bankrupts, and borrowers: where now I must lie like a soilerne wretch, euen ready to die for want of reliefe: my friends pittie me, my enemies play vpon me. All flie from me, none come nye me, but mercilesse keepers, and miserable caytiffes, who make me remember what I learned long agoe.

The Spendalls
Petition.

The end of
Riot.

*Cum fueris felix multos numerabis amicos,
Nullus ad amissas ibit amicus opes.*

When I was mounted vpon the chariot of Fortune, Gallants would conuerse with me, Lawyers giue attendance to my suites, Tradesmen cappe to me, Dependants crouch to me, Brokers borrow for me, Vsurers lend me, Flatterers extol me, lusty Lasses aduance me, stoope to me, and hang about my necke like goodly Iewels, as they proue. But now I am trampled vnder the wheele of Chance, all is turned topsie turuey, *Qui nuper albus eram, nunc sum contrarius albus*. Gallants in their Pasquill humours begin to gird at me. *Curia pauperibus clausa est*. Lawyers haue no feeling of my case: Tradesmen will haue

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no commerce with me; Dependants hang downe their heads as if they were going to hanging: Brokers become boisterous: Vsurers misuse me. Thus am I vsed for vsing them: thus am I deceiued for trusting them: thus am I despised for imbracing them: thus am I become a castaway for casting away my money amongst them. Now there is no wealth left, they are all lost, now my gold is flowne they are all fled, and now am I in want, they are all vanished like vnto an empty cloude. Oh that you would but send some Reuenge vpon some of them, that others of my rancke, seeing some of their fals, may shun the like places, and amend their follies; and they themselues relent, and haue their remorseles hearts turned: if out of their bellies, honestye and vpright dealing should haue no great losse.

The Spendall.

The Sergeant attends on him.

The Sergeant.

Would all our Lusty Cuts would looke in at this looking glasse. He was as well rigg'd a Pinnace, as some that make a greater shew, and as well mann'd till the boisterous blasts of his owne affections splitted him vpon the rocks of Riot. He was as louely as Lxander, before he cast himselfe into the Sea of sensuality, and might in time haue proued a Co-adiutor of his countries weale, had hee closed his cares at the inueigling of Sea-Lures, and shut his mouth when Circe preferred him the cup to quaffe, which turned him to a beast, or more wretched then a beast in these daies, A beggar. But what is he that attendeth him so closely in the gowne.

The opinion
of the Ser.
geant.

At someth (said Opinion) that you neither trust nor are trusted: Either you haue stood in no need of money, or you want credit to borrow: or if you haue borrowed, you pay according to promise, and appointment; else he would haue bene so bold as to haue clapped you vpon the shoulder, and bene better acquainted with you, though you cared not greatly for his acquaintance, if euer you came into the precincts of his Jurisdiction: He is an Officer, whose office I disallow not,

but

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but dislike some of his fraternitie in their extreame execution of their duties, which will salve like Spaniels, on such as bzi be them, and will be inquisitiue after them, where they are sure they are not: But mercilesse Furies to haunt out poore men, which are disable to see, and feed them with rewards, and that which sheweth them to be no Christians on the Sabbath day: He is at the best but a decayed Tradesman, or bntzristy Occupier, which, how dissolately or basely soeuer he liued before, is good enough to be as he is, The quartaine he liued to a Spendall: the Plague to bad Pay-masters: the Vsurers soiking hound: a necessary naile in the finger of the Common wealth to claw men by the poles.

A Sergeant.

The countrey Client passeth along.

He hath neuer a Petition to preferre, vnlesse against himselfe. The countrey Client. As are wise enough to keepe their money, while they haue it, and pay dulp where they owe. But say, what is he that noddeth next: if my eye-sight faile me not, a most corpulent fellow with a full face, and soule hands, couered like a Capease all with leather, backt with a broad dagger, a long sword which handleth the forepart of his shoppes very rigorously: now is his browne bonnet whipt betwene his legs, and he stands groping for his Petition.

This man (saide Opinion) you see so plainly attired, is quite tired with following the law: who, though he seeme so plaine, hath as many crooked conditions in his Costrell, as a sight of your finest fashionmongers. If he be Churchwarden, the Parson he maligneth, is summoned vpon suspicion, if he giue but a well looking Lasse a good morrow, or good night. If he be Constable, all the Alewives are vndone: If his neighbour trespass against him, he will neuer forgive him. He will worship any man for his commodity, but where he neither feareth nor hopeth, he is haile fellow, well met. Cocknies may laugh at him, as he laggeth along the
paucements,

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pauements, and Guls giggle when he passeth by their proper personages: but if he could get vantage, he would make them pay for the whole dozen: Let him alone, whether he haue his Dates, Pease, or Beanes, yet he wanteth no fetters. Lend an eare to his Petition, if it be truly speld, hee will conuince somebody.

The contrie
Clyents Pe-
tition.

Long haue I liued, and grieued to see so many citizens become Bankrouts, when Lawyers flourish, and breath and braule to the vtter ruine and vndoing of such pooremen as my selfe, who hauing an homely wife and children at home, am compelled to come in *Coram* to this most deare Cittie, where I lie at exceeding charges, following the Law, which I faine would flie: But necessity hath no Law, for hauing no fees, I may find a Lawyer (adding but a Maister to it) who hath either no Law in his budget, or no conscience in his breast. So my case hath bene considered, and hung so long in Westminster Hall, as my fathers Bowcase in mine owne hall, euer since he died, and left certaine lands to be parted amongst his sonnes, who, because we could not deuide them according to euery one of our contents, were contented to crouch to certaine Lawyers, who conceiuing the controuersie, and perceiuing vs at such variance, like our friends and welwillers promised to take *our parts*: and indeed not to belie them, they haue bene as good as their promises, and haue taken *our parts*, and not left vs an hole, or part to thrust our heads into. And now we lacke *unde*: they come ouer vs with a *Quare*, which putteth vs into a *Quandary*, to be sent farre with neuer a farthing. It were ingratitude not to requite our welwillers and *partakers*, or at least, to wish wel vnto them that we cannot requite. My Petition therefore is, that you would conserre an hundredth marks or two vpon such Pillers, or rather Caterpillers, I mean such markes, as may marke them, to make others marke and beware of them. But for those rare, admirable, miraculous, honest, conscionable, graue deciders, which weigh the matter more then the money, preferre the Commonweale, more then their owne priuate wealth: pleade for the poore, as well

A strange Foot-post.

as Nobles : permit the not *guiltie*, overthrow the *guiltie*; I pray that they may liue many merry and Hillarie termes, for the good of their countrey, and profit of themselves, and their posteritie.

The countrey Client.

The Hostler followeth him.

Sir, said I, this Petition was neuer of his owne making, it is pinched so Pedantically, cut vpon fustian Phrases, and bound about with Mocke-adoes.

The Hostler.

Resolue your selfe (answer to Opinion) your countriman in many places is so metamorphosed in maners now a daies, and quaint tearmes, that you shall hardly distinguish Pan from Apollo, but by the habit, and so captious in words, that you can utter no word that he will not equiuocate, if the Idiom will beare it. He speaketh so ambiguously, that if his speech be construed one way, he knoweth how to interpret it after another signification, & is not the man you take him, for if you take him for a plaine, silly, honest man at all times, and in euery respect. You haue said enough of him, but I pray you what is he for a man that doth follow him, he hath a sticke in his hand, which he whisketh as he leadeth the horse by the bridle.

The Hostler leadeth the countrey Clients horse after him.

He is as full of complement as his maister an Innkeeper: You are welcume Gentlemen, is all his eloquence, and that he sheweth as well to a clowne, as a knight. At your entrance into his stable, he will be so obsequious and seruile, that he will wipe your very horses heeles. He stinketh like a Curricombe, and smelleth as ranke as Stale. He will giue your horse a pecke of prouender (if it be your pleasure) and steale halfe of it, if you eye him not narrowly. At night he filleth the racke with hay, but in the morning you shall not find an handfull, though your horse, nor any other by him eat not a mouthfull. If you abide any long time and will hourly looke vnto your beast, as it is best (for the eye of the maister maketh

The opinion of a knaue Hostler.

A strange Foot-post.

the horse fat) he can take order for his eating overmuch, by greasing his teeth with a tallow candle. He loneth oz: the likely, and a dzab if he be not married. He hath no pearely wages of his maister to maintaine him, but that which guests bestow vpon him. To be bziere with him: at your departure, if you giue him any thing in the chamber, when you make cleare with the house, he hath a switch in one hand, and the bzidle turned ouer the mane of your horse, standing in readinesse, to hold your stirrop steadfastly, and bid you heartily farewell: But if he finde you miserable, your saddle girts are tied but slackly, and if you like them not, you may mend them your selfe, and if you looke not befoze you leape, you may perchance rue it. But he will hold your stirrop if you bid him, he dare not deny it, it is a speciall point of his profession, but slackely, and with the head on the one side: and he will bid you farewell (as his maister may heare) and be changed, (that he muttereth to himselfe.) Though he be a knaue, yet he is a man of great calling (especially when travellers ride early on their iourney.

An Hostler.

The old Seruingman passeth along.

The old Ser-
uingman.

E*Cce autem alterum*, Behold a blew coate with neuer a badge on it, the crowne of his head like a Franciscans, Leno in facie, he looketh leane in the face, and lanke in the belly: All his apparrell looke as though they were cast, a signe of a weake stomacke to beare strong liquour. Looke how he kisseth his hand as if he were in love with it, and licketh the superficies of the flooze with his knes. Hee vpon it, how sermonious he is in delinering his Petition. Those lowe legs, and kissing the hand (if he can cogge, and lie to) would get him a seruice with some in the world, if he would serue thee oz foure yeares for no wages, he should haue halfe a crowne at parting.

May (saide Opinion) he hath bene long enough in that predicament,

A strange Foote-Post.

dicament, and now can shew naught of his getting, unlesse
 childezen he dare not father. He was a pretty boy, an hand-
 some strapping, a proper man: peruisit in his childhood, proud
 in his youth, and prodigall in his best yeares: He hath wa-
 sted his portion in hope of preferment: spent his substance,
 looking for aduancement; consumed quite all, in expectation
 of some requittall. His greatest felicitie was to court the
 chambermaids in some coynor, & his chiefe exercise to make
 his maisters friends ^a dependants drunk. He was trained
 up in some pece of a topners trade to make legs, and the best
 part of his Rhetoricke was, I forsooth, and No forsooth.
 The intinctions that he was tied to, were to rise at all
 houres, and to ride in all seasons, eating that which was left,
 wearing that which was left, and marrying oftentimes that
 which his maister left. Which sheweth what he was, and is
 the ^b Antecumbulo of a Gentlewoman, the ^c Subsequent
 of a Gentleman, the ^d Presedent of a Postmantle, or a
 Cloake bagge.

The opinion
 of the old
 Seruingman,

^a Seruing-
 men.

^b One that
 goeth before.

^c One that
 followeth,

^d One that
 sitteth before.

An old Seruingman, a young beggar.

Not without cause do I creepe to you with my Petition,
 praying either better fortune hereafter, or reuenge vpon them
 that haue so slighted me off heretofore; who from my youth
 was brought vp in seruice, not in Gods seruice, but in the ser-
 uice of man and woman, waiting for that which now I shall
 neuer get, because I can waite no longer. So long as I was
 strong, I was backt with something: so long as I could per-
 forme all seruiceable duties, I wanted for no promises. But
 Time which turneth all things, hath turned me out of seruice,
 and Age which altereth all men, hath changed me from the
 top of Fauour to the toe of Contempt. Being now vsed like
 an old horse, my cloake plucked of my backe, as his skin: Or
 an old dogge, kickt with disdain of euery vpstart. Thus haue
 I bene serued for all my seruing: gained a daintie dish, for car-
 uing so many daintie dishes: got a goodly catch, for all my
 watching, and catching cold, for all my running, and riding,
 tending, and tendering the welfare of those, which consider
 none,

The old Ser-
 uingmans
 petition.

A strange Foot-Post.

none, but themselves. A man were better seruethogges, then some men, many wiues, most widdowes. Yet I would be loth to be misconstrued; or thought to censure any, but curious fooles, that none can please: ingratefull wretches, which although a man hath spent the prime of his youth, hindered his fortunes, discharged the part of a faithfull steward, when his beautie fadeth, and strength faileth, will thrust him from them (because he cannot performe his wonted charge) without recompence or remorse. For the world knoweth, and thousands acknowledge, the munificent liberalitie of true Gentry, extended towards them, who by seruice haue climbed vp to honour, their maisters not enuying them, but lending their own hand and strength to their ascensions, whose childrens children are bound to pray for them: when others, respected like my selfe, are forced to become humble Petitioners as I am, and are contrarily indebted, to them and theirs, if they do not degenerate from their Predecessors.

The old Seruingman.

The widdow with the old Seruingman.

The Widdow

WELL (thought I) though the fellow haue gained small wages, yet hath he great words (where soeuer he got them) and can say something for himselfe, though it auail him little. Let him be traueiling towards Woggers bush, and thinke of his sines in his masters Buttery. But stay awhile he is in communication with a seruing well demeaned woman, somewhat stricken in yeares, yet well saoured; and not past marriage.

The opinion
of the widdow.

She may do well you thinke (said Opinion) to make him a man, which made her a woman, when time was (or else there are liars.) But if she be wise, she will not hazard her goods and her selfe. That she hath, she is sure of, and put the case she wasteth any thing her selfe, it will be lesse care, then to haue another to lath it out. The wilde colt may proue a tame horse, but a wilde youth is oftentimes a wilfull man.

Vincere

A strange Foot-post.

Vincere consuetudinem dura est pugna. It is a sore conflict to subdue custome. She leaeth now a single life (a singular life) she hath her necke out of the yoke, she need not thrust it into it againe, but shee luff. If she can keepe her selfe as she is, she is well and a wealthy Widow.

The maide gotten with childe commeth along.

Let them goe together on Gods name (said I) but heimi-
hi, what a wofull spectacle is this? faciem pulchram, an
amiable face, and lonely looke: Pettie soule, why doth she
pouder those fresh cheekes with salt teares? Alas, she can
scarce wallow, her belly is so full, yet she toggeth along,
though euery foote she looketh to lie downe.

This is one (answered Opinion) whom Nature hath imbel-
lished with her rarest ornaments, but fortune furnished with
none of her riches. She was poore, therefore despaired of an
husband. Light of beliese, therefore at this time heauy be-
lied. Another Dido to beleue some wandering AEnas: ano-
ther AEnone to credite some wandring Paris: another Phil-
lis to trust some swearing Demophon. He promised, and hath
fulfilled (but I do not say his promise.) Because he sware
he would neuer forsake her, she supposed he would surely
haue her: as though he which maketh no scruple to breake the
seuenth Commandement, will make any conscience to keepe
the third. The apples were faire, the tree comely, and the di-
uell at hand made her fall to them, which procured her fall,
and that fall was the cause of this swelling.

If euer any might proffer a Petition for right, or reuenge, I
haue as great reason as any, Being a pure and vntoucht vir-
gin, voted to Vesta, and deuoted to Chastity, till a venerous
villaine with daily assaults and nightly trecheries, neuer left
battering the weake bulwarke of my heart with piercing
words, vowes, oaths, & protestations, darted from his smooth
tongue, till he had surprisid me. Hearing him ostentimes
swear, seeing him teare his haire, nay, which is more strange

The maide
gotten with
childe.

The Opinion
of the maide
with child.

The Petition
of the maid
with childe.

D

for

A strange Foot-post.

for a man, weepe in most seeming sadnesse, kisse my hand with feare and trembling, and voluntarily proffer, and performe much seruitude, which I neither desired nor deserued. Being guiltlesse of effecting deceit, was free from suspecting: feare to breake an oath, or violate a vow, trusted that he had bene possessed with the like feare, (as he was not) at last condescended. Which so soone as he had accomplished, he left me: It is no glory to deceiue a maide, no manhood to ouerthrow the weaker vessell, Yet being outwardly garnished with the gorgeous workmanship of Art and Nature, what labour will not some men take to attaine this vessell? what watchings will they not vndergoe? what wealth will they not wast to compassse it? And when they haue gotten it, how do they esteeme it? euen a toy to be plaid with for a time, and after too. For so soone as they eye another deuice, they cast away the old, and neuer are in quiet till they are fingering the new, Fie vpon such, they are like warriours of old time, which would spend much cost, and labour to subdue a citie, and when they had brought it into subiection, they would instantly leaue it, and so march to another, &c. Or like the fantastickall fellowes of our time, which cannot keepe long in one cut, but euery foot haue a fling at a new fashion: but all not so, and I would there were fewer that are so.

The maide with childe.

The Parriter rideth after the maide with childe.

The Parriter

I See one a farre off, riding as it were to this maide, he will not be here very soone, he is so ill hoysed. In the meane time I will acquaint you with a test not vnfit to be inserted in this place. There was a prettie maide which in her time had many suiters, the first whereof was verie bzgent to haue his delights with her (as I heard a crooked legd knaue terime it:) she being a tender hearted thing, as it seemed this was, after a little willing waywardnesse was wonne, and lost together.

together. After he had forsaken her, a second came, and served her in like manner: then a third, and after a fourth, (birds of a feather, they flew all after the foremost.) Being thus handled, she began to ware warie, and forswore trusting. In this resolution a fifth came vnto her, whose condition was to trie all, and if they did agree, he would come no more there. This Gentleman wooing the foresaid supposed maide, set his wit and wealth vpon the tenters, to obtaine his purpose, but nothing could preuaile. She rayled most egregiously against his dishonest and vnjust request, and scorned the motion: which pleased him very well (though he seemed discontented) and married her. The second night they lay together, he began to speake thus vnto her: Thou knowest (sweet heart) how earnest I was to lie with thee befoze I might lawfully; and I protest, if thou hadst suffered me, we had neuer bene married together. The wife, whether she was halfe a sleepe, or ouer-ioyed, or had the heart of an Owle (which they say causeth women to reueale their secrets) laide to her left pappe, answered him thus. Say, nay, husband, I was wise enough for that. I trow: for thre or foure had serued me so befoze I euer beheld your face. This tale I thought mete to set downe in this place, that if any maide chance to reade ouer this booke, she might take heed how she dishoner her selfe with any, whether she marrieth or marrieth not, for it will breed future iealousie, though she neuer after deserue it. But now the horseman is alighted and readeth something to the maide gotten with childe, what he is I cannot certainly say, but I do not like his looks, nor that peece of parchment in his hand.

Gesner.

The Parriter
serueth a Pro-
cess, &c.

I will not runne (said Opinion) into any particulars wth him, he is better knowne in the countrey then in the citie. And whosoever are intus, or incute (as I may speake) acquainted with him, know him to be an honest man, or a knaue

The Opinion
of the Pariter.

Pariter.

A strange Foot-Post.
The reiected louer walketh along.

The Louer.

I Et him returne that answer to the Court, and sae if they can haue an action of slander against you, and obserue him now that commeth next with his Petition, so trimly tricked by: not a haire amisse with him, vnlesse that which hangeth on the one side of his shoulder, what a pourblinde Barber was he which polled him last. Come a little nearer me, I see now, he can make his old cloake serue the turne, in the last edition newly corrected and augmented, laced and interlaced. He hath a stiffe necke, which God hateth, and a strait dublet, which no faithfull drunkard can indure, for if he had it but one sitting, he would not leaue it worth a button: but the fashion of his breeches, sure he had an honest Tayler, else hee might haue taken as much from both the out-sides next his knees as would haue made him two ends of a wallet, which now are very like a paire of Smiths bellows, standing with the smallest ends vpwards. A swat youth no doubt, for he hath two roses on his shoes to quallifie the smell of his fete, if he haue no socks, or one would make a Pope of him, and kisse his toe. But why doth he sigh so deeply, and looke so sleepily?

The description
of the
Louer.

This finicall fellow is no foole, although he be none of the wisest: he cares no more for money (if he haue it) so he may please his mistresse, then for such mettall as serues onely for seruile exchange: He can fit his humour to euery estate. If he be among Schollers he hath Aristotle at his fingers ends and euery phrase smells of Cicero. He can shew wit in quirks of Sophistry, and reading in disputations of Philosophy. Amongst Courtiers he can bjaue it out as well as the rest, and court women, with most louing and amorous prattle: with them he is in his Quaint and keeps the old tert, Bonu est nobis esse hic. But their company so besets him, that he forgetteth with Vlysses to stop his eares, and therefore the Syrens put him to shipwacke. He carrieth not the Antidote of Cauene Emptor, against the alluring baites of their beautie, and therefore Folly (for the most part) is his next haue.

He

A strange Foot-post.

He remembers not, that the eyes of wicked women are snares, and their wordes charmes; that their deceit is inward, their desires more, and their couetousnesse most; which the more it drinks the more thirsty it is: their consciences like a Porrice stone, light, and full of holes: whose lones are for lucre, whose hearts are light on his person, and whose hands are heavy on his purse. If he hit vpon a Courtezan that is a little coy, though she be altogether vnchaste, his delight is to be on her lappe: there he lies at racks and manger, & thinks there are no more maids then Malkin. Where he sitteth like Sardanapalus, dallying with the flame, till he burne in the fire. So as in the end, coming home by waxing Crosse, he buyeth repentance with too deare a price, and becommeth at last, A fond, despised, and reiected Louer.

The Lowers
Petition.

Being worne with griefe, and wasted with discontent, I am constrained to seeke remedy and some ease to my minde, which you may afford by doing reuenge vpon an inconstant Female, who plighted her faith to me, & priuately proclaimed me the sole Lord of her Microcosm: but before I was installed I was forestalled by the vndermining perswasions of a trecherous vsurper, who with his seruile curtesies hath insinuated himself into my dominions. Who would trust the wind? A womans words: who would relie vpon a broken reed? A womans oath. They sigh for them that hate them, and laugh at most that loke them. They will haue some that will not, and will haue few that would faine. Some feeling of their folly had he, which when he beheld his neighbors wife hang her self vpon one of the trees in her husbands orchard, requested a graft of the same tree, to see if it would beare any more of the like fruite. And no light burthen did that passenger account his wife, who, when the rest in the ship were willed to cast all the bagge and baggage, which did surcharge it, ouerboard, was most willing to hurry his wife into the Sea. Some to shew their learning, or rather ignorance, may make large volumes of *Encomiums* in their behalves, and get perhaps a *Judas* kisse, or a flap with a Foxe taile for their labours. For he that hath scene

A strange Foot-Post.

or read any thing at all of this *Common place*, shall finde for one *Vesta*, many vitious; for one *Diana*, many darlings; for one *Lucrece*, many lasciuious: did neuer any but *Somer amiss* lie with her owne sonne? Did neuer any but *Mirra* twine with her owne father? Did neuer any but *Biblis* dote vpon her own brother? Did neuer any mistresse but *Iosephus* tempt her household seruants? One is no number, I would there were no number of these ones, vpon which if you fall, you will bee

The forlorne Louer.

The countrey Schoolemaister commeth to the Louer.

The Coun-
trei Schoole-
maister.

IT is happy you are so short, else we had bene wearied with your louely petition. He thinkes yonder is one that cringeth to him: all his apparell is not woorth one Parke, yet he hath a hat on his head of the Spanish blocke: put the blocke and his head together and see what they spell. Well done honest genus and species (for thou seemest inclining as it were, that way by thy habite, and pen and inkehozne) reade a peece of Ouid de Remedio amoris to him, for though he raile vnreasonably against women, yet I am perswaded he doth chastise them, non quod odio habet, sed quod amat.

The Opinion
of the coun-
trei Schoole-
maister.

Atque hoc humanum est (said Opinion) This man you see which maketh such action with his hands, as he talketh with the Louer, is one that keepeth a foule soyle in the Chancell or Welstre of a Church. He is a most horrible Tyrant ouer little children, and makes their breeches quauer with the shakes of his Scepter, alias y Rod. He getteth his lining, non per se, but for the most part, per accidens. Yet he can teach Grammer and AEsops Fables, for he hath them both in print, translated verbum de verbo. Howsoever schollers do esteeme of him, ignorant Hobnailes hold him for a rare Scholler, for he will speake Latine amongst them extrumpere, and scan verses at his fingers ends. He is a man of sharpe learning; which pearceth hard words: he worketh by Rule, like a Car-
penter,

A strange Foot-Post.

penter, and can cast a figure, as if he were a confurer. He is very curious, and standeth much a ypon points, he may fitly be coupled with the Louer. For either he is enamoured of his own good parts, or in loue with the waiting maid, if he tabled in a Gentleman house, & sometimes winneth her goodwill, but neuer can get her friends consent. To be briez with him, as hee is with his infants, a word and a blow: Hee is the outside of a Scholler, an imperious commander ouer boyes and wenches, the head maister of the Peape-taile trade

A Pedant.

The old woman married to a yong man
commeth next.

Let them all walke Newgate fashion, two by two:
Who is that which hobbleth next: Christ blesse the woman;
So, wipe your mouth with your Handkerchiefe after your coughing and spitting. Her forehead is wrinkled like a paper lanthorne, which boyes make: with two thinne cheekes, like two washt trenchers, betwene which, her nose seemeth like the socket, wherein the snot stands like a peece of a farthing Candle. Her mouth like a Cane with two clap dories, to wit, her two lips, without a bolt, that is without a tooth, containing a Pilgrime, a wandring tongue, which mouth (like a Cane) standeth like a Cane betwene two sharpe pointed hills, whose tops do almost touch one another, her Nose and her Chinne.

The old woman married to a young man.

Spoke Age (said Opinion) and see how you will thrive.
This toothlesse, saplesse, sencelesse Beldain, was wife to an honest substantiall man, who during his youth endured much labour in gathering riches to maintaine himselfe in yeares, and her, if she should be superstes, or out liue him, as she hath. So she had all he left (which was sufficient) at her owne disposing, who was bad enough disposed as it seemed: For as soone as her husband was surely buried, she was all on the hoite, she could not lie alone. An husband was all her care, and many graue men she had choice of, but she gaue small in-
tertaine

The opinion of the old woman married to the yong man.

A strange Foot-Post.

certaintment to any of their haire, she had rather haue the legge of a Lark: then the body of a Kite: yet the feathers hang in her Maw, which she cannot digest nor vomite, till death lance her throate with his razor. Her Petition will reueale all, for women cannot keepe their owne secrets. Onely this, she is, as it were, a bush of thornes thrust to the hinder parts of a Colt. A verie old woman married to a young man.

The Petition
of the old wo-
man married
to the yong-
man,

Though I might haue bene better aduised by my friends, forewarning (I confesse) yet since I am in the like pickle as others, and haue had no lesse misfortune then they, I may watter my woes, and cannot chuse but put vp my Petition with theirs. Who as it is well knowne, was wealthy, and therefore soone wonne: an old woman, and therefore soonest wronged by a beggerly varlet: who at my first view seemed so ciuilly behaued, as none could mislike him: so well proportioned, as I could not chuse but like him, especially hauing an honest vocation, as he professed, and was well descended though a yonger brother, which had his portion to take, as he brought me Certificate. But now I perceiue these were but trickes to catch Dotterils. His sinooth tongue being his onely friend, the sleight and craft of his hands, his onely *handie-craft*, his proportion his onely *portion*, which he had to take. For after wee were married he soothed me vp, till I shewed him my substance, and improuidently without any further trial, committed it to his tuition: which when he had made sure, he handled me most ingratfully: neuer touching my lips but with his fist, nor warming my fides, but with an ell I vsed to measure cloath: alledging that if I exclaimed against him, he might safely sweare, he did neuer beate me without measure. Hee would not be contented to waste himselfe and my riches amongst whores and roysters all the day: but at vnseasonable times, when I was in bed, rush into my house with his queans at his heels, & rouse me out of my rest: make me to remake my bed with fresh sheets for his Trulls, & would leape in amongst them, I being compelled to hold the candle to the Diuell, whilest

A strange Foot-poft.

13

whileft he did his deeds of darkenefle: Thus did he vfe me, till I complained to Authoritie which relieued me, reuiled and extruded him my houfe and company. Then did he depart like a Sheepe-biter, retiring himfelfe into a priuate chamber, caft off his guilded Rapier, fpruce leather Boots, and Spurres, got him a Cloake without laces, made a Dublet with a falling choller, wore Gloucs of fixepence a paire on his hands: no points on his Breeches, but at the waftband: a paire of fad coloured ftockings, tied vp ftraight with Garters no broader then an Vfurers belt, and his Shooe-latches bound together with ruffet Inckle: frequented Sermons, fent me moft paffionate letters, that he had renounced Roifters, abiured whores, fetled himfelfe to a ftayed and religious courfe, and that he fhamed to appeare in the place I dwelled, he had fo wronged me and himfelf. But if I would go into the country with him, he would purchase fome conuenient place, where he might liue folitarie from all company, but my felfe, and feruants. His fained repentance feemed fo heartie, and his flattering lines wrought fo with me, that we became attoned, made money of all, and went together, and for three or foure dayes he vfed me kindly and lay very quietly with me in the nights, but the fifth night (being farre from my friends) when I was faft afleepe, and neuer dreamed of any fuch matter, ftole all I had, & ranne away, what way I cannot heare, or learne any tidings.

*The old woman married with
the yong man.*

The Clarke commeth to the old woman.

This is the end of liqnoize, when a woman hath neuer a tooth in her head to chaw it. At a glimpse I fee a young man with her. Hath ſhe not yet abandoned the company of men without beards? If hee be not the man ſhe ſpoke ſo much of, what is he? The Clarke.

He is one that you ſhall ſeldome ſee without cleane limen, he weareth good cloathes, and can write a legible hand: hee of a Clarke. The opinion

C

Dath

A strange Foot-post.

hath a little learning, and will shew it all if you conferre with him: when he rideth abroad with his master, he carrieth two hats, and walketh with a case of Rapiers, one by his side, the other in his hand, his masters and his owne. At dinner or supper, either at home or elsewhere, he waiteth at his masters elbowe with a trencher at his backe, yet he can reach a cleane boilder to any of the table, if he take a liking to the peece he hath on his foule trencher, he marrieth his masters daughter sometimes, which he hath stolne away, (God a merite Oportunitie.) He can make bonds and obligations to pleasure the parish, if their Vicar haue not so much Latine, and indite a loue letter for himselfe or his fellows: if any misdemeanour be committed neare him, when complaint is made thereof, he writeth warrants to apprehend the offenders. He is a Iustices Clarke, which may warrant this old woman for getting her husband or her goods againe, though she pray, and pay neuer so many warrants.

The yong woman commeth married
to an old man.

The yong
woman.

A nother passeth on passing postly, a swete woman, she smelleth hither: and a rolling eye she hath, it turneth with a trice on both sides: a faire haire, if it be her owne: a rare face if it be not painted: a white skinne, if it be not plastered: a full breast, if it be not bolstered: a strait backe, if it be not helped: a slender waste, if it be not pinched: a likely legge if it be not lined: a pretty foot, if it be not in the Shomakers stockes: a faire, rare, swete, meete body, if it be not dishonest.

Your supposes pose me (said Opinion) neither can I say or gamesay. Nature in beautie is better then Art; yet Art in shew surpasseth Nature. She is proudly attired, yet perchance humbly minded: loftily advanced, yet it may be lowly descended: vildly suspected, yet peradventure vertuously addicted. The world now waies is round with such as she is,

A strange Foot-Post.

H

is, and too rash in their censures : condemning such as are innocent, and quitting many that are culpable : but that which is past mending is past mending withall. Therefore leaue it, and looke vpon this lustre : faire she is and bet-
tuous : riches she enioyes, yet hath no great ioy of riches :
married she is, yet I make question, whether she bee a
maide or no, being a young woman married to a verie olde
iealous man.

My requests are not vnreasonable, nor void of good cause,
being a woman of tender age, as your eyes may witnesse,
and of a vexed spirit, as these lines will manifest: that would
chuse rather to be laide in my graue then on my bed; feede of
the wormes, then eate with such a worne-eaten olde iealous
husband as I doe: whose age I doe reuerence, and find fault
with no deformitie, which time hath thrust vpon him, but
with his causelesse suspitions, and immerited mistrusts of me.
For did he hemme more then a towne of Taylers, or hawke
ofner then a countrey of Faulkners, I could endure it, I am so
enured thereunto: were the parts of his body neuer so *nauseas*
& detestable, I could away with the, so his reason were sound
and sauory: but his wisdom (like his eyes) is sunke into his
head, too farre for hereafter appearing: his will stronger
then his breath: his vnderstanding feebler then his fingers: and
his iudgement corrupter then his body. It is an admiration
to see the difference of some of his yeeres, how directly they
will talke, what maiestie is in their lookes, what wisdom in
their discourse? Not a word without his weight, not a sen-
tence without good sence: not a deed vnlesse absolutely per-
formed. They will blame nothing that is not blame worthe,
nor condemne any without assured reason. But my *Zelus*
raileth without reason, knocks his staffe against the stones,
blames me without offence. Oh that some good Fortune
would therefore cure me of this care, and salue me of this sor-
row: For neuer shall I reape dayes rest, nights content, houres
quiet, minutes mirth, so long as I haue this impostume in my
head, this pinne and webbe in mine eye, this canker in my

The Petition
of the young
Woman mari-
ed to the olde
Man.

The praise
of some olde
Men.

A strange Foot-Post.

nose, this scabbe on my lippe', this iealous old husband.

The young woman married with a very old iealous man.

Now I heare this Petition, it bringeth into my minde a merry conceit. There was a very old man, which married a maide, who making a friend of his, did impertune him to know what the people spake of his marriage. Who made him this answer: There was a poore man which had but one pecke of coye to grinde, and would needs build a Mill to grinde it, and when he had ground his coye, the mill stood emptye, so that after wards all the neighbours came to grind their grists there. This I inferre, not to defame any, but to shew how ready the world is to speake the worst.

Whatsoever you say (said Opinion) unequall marriages doe marre ages, and such made matches as these, prove but mad matches, yet of the two, I hold it more conuient that old Tithon should haue a fresh Amora, then an aged woman to be linked in matrimony with a beardless boy.

The Cuckold passeth along.

The Cuckold **S**ufficient so; this theame, another doth appeare or rather spare. Heaueus secure my senses, if I be not distracted, he is a Proteus, a Camelion, an Omnigatherum, God make him an honest man, so; I would be loath to make any one such a one as he is.

The Opinion of a Cuckold **H**e will trouble me to paint him, (said Opinion) I know not what colours to lay vpon his face, so; sometimes he is of a sanguine complexion, sometimes he looketh pale, sometimes tawny, or Moritawny, like Tobacco. Neither can I tell how to frame him, so; he is sometimes tall, sometimes lowe, sometimes grosse, sometimes gracile. So; expressly say what vocation he is of, so; sometimes he is a Citizen, sometimes a Farmer, sometimes a Lawyer, sometimes a Scholler, &c. He hath a proper woman to his wife, yet common, he toyleth to main taine ether mens labours, yet he reapeth that which he neuer wrought so; he wasteth all the coynes in his owne hatches on other mens Barnes, yet he keepeth that which he neuer got, But to draw you out of this Labo; with

A strange Foot-post.

With one line, Cornu ferit ille, If he haue not Cornes on his
Loos, he hath Hoynes on his Head. He is his wiues foole
amongst her copesmates, wanton wenches pastime amongst
themselves, and waggis game to play at with two fingers.

A Cuckold.

Loath I am to bewray my griefes vnto you, did not the
loathing of the life I lead egge mee against my nature to wish
that I would not: I haue many yeares beene bound in a bond,
which hath vndone mee, yoaked with a curtall which hath
plaide me many lades trickes, a wanton wayward wel fauou-
red wife: who falsifying her faith and breaking the bondes
she sealed most solemnely before a congregation, doth of-
ten that which shame sylenceth me: for vttering. I dare not
meete her, she keepes such couragious company I cannot
content her any way, she hath outwardly what she likes vn-
wardly: and what she thrustes away with one finger, she pulles
again with both her hands: when I sawne on her, she will be
froward: If I be but a little absent, she wishes my presence.
Her thoughts are like Babyes fancies, that will, and will not.
My deedes cannot suffice her, for she is a woman. My speech
cannot please her she is so captious, nor my lookes like her,
she is so curious. None feele the rages of descases, but they
which haue them. None so truly know the torments of hell,
as they which feele them? Nor any seeleth the torments, or
knoweth the rages, that I doe, vnlesse he liue in such an hell,
or haue the like descase, as I haue. Many, are haunted with
haggis, but neuer any with such an haggard: They liue caute
though not caste: but my *Venus* lyeth so visibly in her Net-
workes, that not only Gods eyes, but mens behold her. Yet
sayne would I reforme her, but neither faire meanes can per-
swade her, nor fowle scarre her. If I indeauour with good
counsell to disswade her from her former sollicies, her answer
is, I preach too learnedly for her to edify by me. If I plead
plainely with her, then at the next word, I am Sir Iohn
Lacklatine: If I can collect some witty saying fit for
my purpose, that will touche her to the quicke, then she saith,

The Cuck.
olds Penion.

A strange Foot-Post.

I am all wit, or a wit all : If I threaten her, she hath enough to shield her : If I mention but a bill of diuorcement, it is her only desire : If I keepe her short of money, shee makes deuillish oathes and vowes that shee will haue Money, or some body shal pay for it : if I for quietnes sake should lock her vp into her chamber, the next time I stirre abroad, I am arrested for some debt of hers, which shee ranne into for such a purpose.

In me turbarunt luxuriosa proci,

In mea regnant nullis prohibentibus, aula.

Neuer shall I enioy rest, so long as shee and I breath together. Such therefore as haue not the same causes of complaints as I haue, and yet liue not contented I wish their fortunes to bee, that they may be troubled with my paine and head-ache.

The Cuckold,

The olde Souldier commeth along.

The old
Souldier.

BUt stay, heeres an other linneth a long: pittie a mee, an He taroclite, hee lacketh an hande. There are scarres on his face, would scarre a timorous body to behold: he looketh grauely, as though he had not long to liue, and leaneth vpon his trunchion, as if his body were about to fall away: come along & lustily, and halt not before thy freinds. Sure hee is a man of worth for hee hath his hangers on.

The Opinion
of the old
Souldier.

Your iests (saie Opinion) are too tart, and your merryment ouer much vpon so monefull a Man, which deserueth to be pittied, rather then to be plaide vpon, and meriteth rather moze then mocking. He hath borne Armes, howsoeuer now hee be disarmed: he hath had a sword to strike by him, though now he hath no other weapon then a stike in his hand: he hath lost his limmes but not in some drunken fray, and got those Cycatrices, but not in the defence of any Cocatrices: He hath fought against the walles of the enemy but neuer fought against any for the wall, as he walked in the streete. He will not stabbe for the lye, and yet he will

A strange Foot-Post.

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not take the lye in his Countries disgrace. Hee is none of your swalthing Captaines, that vsurpe the title, when they neuer sought vnder any coulours but Venus-es: and they will dye rather then they will flye from her coulours. Neuer handled peece, vnlesse of meat, bread &c. Neuer discharged shot vnles in a Tauerne where they met with too hot shots sometimes for their discharging. Neither is he any of your counterfet Duello's, discoursing of battailes they neuer came neare, telling of monckers they neuer beheld, vnles in a painted cloath: swearing they were hurt in the defence of Christianity against Mahomotistes, when if they were wounded, it was at Gropne at farthest. He is no Triton of his owne praises: nor Chronologer of his olde exploitcs, he is an arant Colward in wangling bawles, a more Crauen in vniust conflictes, a very Pigmey in paltrey frapes: but in a iust cause as valorous as Hector, and as puissant as Hercules, a true, faithfull and religious Souldier.

My humble sute is for better Fortune, for men are now become so ingratefull and hard hearted, that they doe not consider those which haue bene their friends, nor reward such as when neede serued, warded them from imminent distresses: the times past no man thinkes vpon: the time to come few dreame of: but all are for the time present. A Souldier hath helped them, and now God helpe Souldiers, for not many will: a souldier may helpe them, and then may helpe himselfe, and then they will helpe him also: but now a Souldier doth them no good, and therefore they will doe him as little. They liue in peace, that bringeth plentie, and that pride: but pride may haue a fall, and peace and plentie their hoods turnd ouer their heads: which I neither wish nor pray for, but if they haue, *Spernitur orator bonus, horridus miles amator.* In the meane time, we, who haue wholly decayed our limbes, and impouerished our estates in the warres, may shew our scarres to vncompassionate eyes, and receaue no further helpe then *Christ helpe you, good words, would we were able:* good wishes for themselves: when as the superfluitie of one paire of their shoe-ties

The Petition
of the old
Souldier.

A strange Foot-Post.

shoe-ties would yeeld vs much comfort : but I cannot, neither will I goe about to condemne any absolutely , the world is so pestered with idle vagabonds , which vnder the name of Souldiers and forged passports , haue so wronged some , that it withdraweth the hearts of most from conferring their beneuolence vpon any : for I am perswaded that no true borne spirit will deny some reliefe to a true Souldiers in his want. And Preheminence hath allowed them well , though it be ill enough distributed in some places: the fault is not in the giuers, but of inferiours which are put in trust to dispose it. But the God of war hath so many *Apostataes*, that the true borne, fare the worse for the illegitimate. This boone I therefore craue, that all the ranks of rogues, and runnagates, shrouding themselves in the cast-suites of Souldiers, might be rooted out, or sent vpon a boone voyage to the new found Land , by which meanes Hens & Capons may sit at roost quietly in the night, and pecke about the garth all the day : shirts and other naperie hang vpon hedges, till the Sun set, shops be kept shut, and windowes stand vvide open to let in aire, vvithout feare of Creepers, to the great comfort both of citie, and countrey.

The old Souldier.

The Prentise cometh along.

The Prentise.

When the Lion was old, the Aste came and kicked him: and when a Souldier hath lost his liuings, enerie coloward will crowne him. I would say more in thy behalfe, and doe as much as I speake, if I were able. But I am anticipated by the spacie entrance of another, with his cloaks clapt vnder his left Arme. A prettie youth, very decently apparelled, but he goeth very fast, as if he went of an errant, what may he be.

The opinion
of the Prentise.

He may be a man (said Opinion) if he liue, an honest man if he liue vpright. A sound man , if he sit surfets, and whores : a thying man if he shunne riotous company: a rich man, if he be thying : a sberisse , if he be a rich man:

An Alderman if he be a Sheriff: A Maior, if he be an Alderman: a Knight if he be a Maior: But yet he is a Prentise.

Diuers are the calamities of some of my rancke, and many The Petition
the miseries they are exposed to, faring hardly, and labouring of the prentice
hardly: but such as will we are Gold must get it, they which
will wyne honour must wage with many aduentures: He
which thincketh to proffit must cashier the very thought of
pleasure, Ryding with care and running with paine: Sitting
with prouidence, and lying with consideration: Eating with
frugality and drincking with moderation: Synce therefore
honorable men must endeanour for Renowns: Learned men
study for their knowledge: Richmen labour for their gaines:
Tradesmen trauell for their Sciences: All men, (which will
liue like men in their age) labour like beasts in their youth,
vales they haue Lands to trust to: My meaning is not to dis-
parage learning, because it is hard to attaine dispraise honour,
because it is difficult to get: discourage Prentises, because
their beginnings are laborious: for I haue read that the base of
Pernassus is full of briers, thornes, and thistles, but the toppe,
plaine as heauen, & smooth as the Moones face. I haue heard
that the steppes which ascend to honour, are like the staires
which mount to the hight of a *Maze*, many and endles. The
dores conducting thervnto, infinite, and intricate, but the top
like the toppe of *Olimpus*, and the roomes pleasant, and spa-
tious, garnished with more then mortal objects. And I know,
by Experience that the skill and secrecy of mechanicall Artes,
are not got (like a loose woman) at first sight. Neither
will yeild any great proffit at first labouring, any more
then a barren ground at the first sowing. I doe not there-
fore Cauill with my calling, nor am pensue for the paines
I endure; but the originall of all my sorrow is a Mistresse so
peeuisish, proude, petulant: oh *sifas dicere*. She came naked into
the City and shall returne naked out of the city, vales she
doe pennance with a white sheete pind about her when she is
dead, as she deserueth now she liueth. Her Mother is very

A strange Foot-post.

well knowne for a poore woman, but I thinke she neuer knew her father. My honest maister married her for loue, and had nought with her, and he is likely to haue nought so long as he hath her: yet she flaunteth with the finest, and gaddeth abroad with the giddiest: looketh for greater seruice then an Empresse: and more duty then a Dutches: enuying all that are more brauely trapped then her selfe, and confederates with few, but such as are wantonly entrapped as she is. Her Wenches feeble the weight of her light fingers, and we haue many a peale wrong about our eares too: We waite all the day to serue our maisters Chapmen, but when any of her Customers come, we are sent abroad on a sleeuelesse errand; and then what becomes of our maisters ware? I doe now wish that some faire Chaunce may light vpon her, to rid my suspesselesse maister of so foule a mischiefe, both for his owne sake and welfare, and the future quietnesse of his trustie Seruants. But to all good Mistresses, whose conditions are contrary to hers, I do wish *Fortune* to poure vpon them the abundance of her fauours.

The Prentise.

The Mal-content walketh along.

The Male-
content.

Well said yong *Prentise*, *Maeste tua virtute puer, Sic i-*
tur ad astra. Proceed as thou hast begun, and doubt not to become a good Common weales-man, when thou hast gotten thee a bigger purse, a better office, and a larger beard. Another toggeth along, spurning the pavement as if he were angry with it. For shame let not thine hat hang over thine eyes: Dost thou dispaire of thy face, thou murtherst it so with thy cloake: hold vp thine head like a man: and pume thy hand thou slouen; Button thy wrists, it is wholesome, and garter thy stockings it is handsome.

The Opinion
of the Male-
content.

His thoughts (said Opinion) are as confused, as his apparell: he bzableth with his starres, & bzangleth at his creation: he wilbeth the Caule which wrapped him in his mothers wombe,

tombe, had bene his winding sheete: and he which breatheth that Prometheon fire into him, had put it out. The welfare of others is his bane, and their ruine Balsamum to him: He thinks better of himselfe then he deserueth, and worse of others then they deserit: He preacheth that which he will not follow, & followes that which no true Christian will preach: his words are lightning, which though they alight vpon all, yet they fire few: what he thinketh, he bolteth out without charity. He twipeth vices taile with his tongue, and that is the reason his words are so vnusauoy. He is like a bawling dog, that barks at all that gallops on horseback, when he goes a foote: like a mad dogge that snappeth at all that meete him: like a mastiffe that worryeth oftentimes such as come neare him. He is other mens foe, and none of his owne friend: he disliketh both extremes, and thinketh meanely of the meane: he is a Misanthropos, which hateth men, a Narcissus which loueth not women, a Diogenes which carpeth at all, a malicious Malcontent.

If you tender the welfare of a Discontent, whose perturbed Spirit, haunteth you in this white sheete, poure downe your disastrous accidents vpon the worlds wasters, disorders, vice, and villany. Say this Petition be prejudiciall to many: many haue straddled ouer the like stile, and more would walke in the same path, were they not extruded and excluded. What rare *Machianils* (right matchlesse villaines) how many be directed to the *Barathrum* of beggery, so they be mounted vpon the heauen of honour? What remorse hath a reprobate who starue and want cloathing, so he be full fed, and gorgeously arrayed? I am no Spaniell to sawne vpon men, nor little Puppy to licke the excrements of women. The Diuell domineereth like a great commander, and his souldiers march vnder the colour of honesty, which now a dayes is accounted like a strumpet. *He which vseth it shal die a begger.* Couetousnes is become a Tradesman, and Pride his wife. Drunkennes the onely sociable companion, & Lechery the sole good fellow: Gluttony is a great man, and Envy a yonger brother: Sloth

The Mal-
contents Pe-
tition.

A strange Foot-Post.

hath got a liuing: Oh Sodome, thou wast fired for thy sinnes,
yet thy sinnes escaped, and range *hic & ubiq;*, Old Tyre, thou
wast delected, new tires are erected: *Red: i orbi in orbem*. The
Ass hath got on the Lions skin, lusty Harts cast their horns a-
mongst the Faunes: Spiders make their Cobwebs in kings
Courts: little Conyes vndermine huge Castles, and pull the
wals vpon their owne heads: *Omnium rerum vicissitudo*. Free-
men are become slaues: Rich men turnd beggers: Beggers
changed to rich men', *Asperum nihil est*. Oh tempore, oh mores!
Beasts lie in houses, Serpents craule in corners, Cookes keepe
in citties, Dawes in old Churches, Wag-tailes in great places:
Saint Peters Vicar is turnd Myner, and doth trafficke with
Salt-peeter: *Monstrum informe, ingens, cui lumen vera pietatis
est ademptum*.

The Mal. coment.

The poore Scholler walketh by.

The poore
Scholler.

HE sketh finely, and is likely to catch Carpes, and poth-
ings. But what Mounfier Male-goe is this, that com-
meth next, so displaying the fretted Luff: Cassity-facing
of his thread bare cloake? Cannot he walke by, ightly like an
honest man, but iet it so like a Tether, and wagge his head
to and fro like a Weathercocke? He vpon it what Rufficall
logges he maketh like a Tennant, or a countrey Curate,
which neuer came any nearer to an Vniuersity then Lincolne
Innifer. *Odio prophanū vulgens*. He is none of your Plebe-
ians in his own conceit, but Apollos godson, chyltred in the
Pirenean, or Hyporrenean fount, he is a common Soulbearer
vnder Mineruas ensigne, and fighteth like a Grammer schol-
ler with Pen and Inkhorne.

The Opinion
of a poore
Scholler.

Oh forbear (said Opinion) doe not beray your owne
nest, turne not student of the law, & forget your old Academi-
call associates: yet I thinke you speake not this out of malice
to the parties, but of more loue, that they seeing their foolish
gates gibed at, may amend them: so there are some of your
peart

A strange Foot-post.

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peare Iuuenals, that mince it, as if they were citizens wines:
and yet I will not say that it proceedeth from any pride, or
ouerwarning conceit in all that do so: but of an ill habit, which
they haue gotten by a careless and fantastisall carpiage. But
let that passe, and ile shew you what this present Debitator
is: to wit, One which though he did neuer eate porridge
in the times of Court without a spoon, yet he hath made
foule shift to deuoure his dinner in a Colledge without a
Trencher; though he cannot carue a Capon without the
helpe of a Cleauer, or unlace a Rabbet like a cunning Car-
uer. Rostra disertus auis, yet he can eate roff well enough to
please himselfe. He is a laug in his owne conceit: and hath
more in him then euery one can conceiue. He deserueth better
fauour then the world affordeth him; and yet he hath no good
fauor; as none in the world which hath no better then he hath:
How he hath bene estimated in former times, it bootes him
not, yet he hath Bootes when he needeth, though he be roff
them. La beshort, and serious he is reiected of fools, respec-
ted of the wise, held in disgrace among prophane, but in re-
uerent reputation with those, which are sincerely religious.
Nothing regarded by the couetous and base minded church,
but greatly rewarded by the liberall and truly descended
Gentilitie, a Scholler.

Would it not grieve that gentleman which had sold his fi-
gories, and spent the mony vpon hopes of preferment, and in
fine, behold his inferiours aduanced, and himselfe obaine no
greater reward then faire promises and faithles protestations?
Would it not kill that Souldiers heart with grief, which when
he had lost his limmes, and left his liuing for his Countreys
good, returning feeble and decrepit to his native Countrey,
to be Caged, Stockt, and baited with Beadles? And would
it not pine that Scholler, and make him looke like the vicar of
Saint Albones, that hath bene brought vpon seuen yeares vnder
the launching lash of a left-handed School-master, & after that
feed with 3. penny chops, & very singular beere in an Vniuer-
sity, rose early, & watched late, Per rot discrimina rerum indidimus

The poore
Schollers
Petition,

A strange Foot-Post.

ad latium, thorough many troubles we attayne to Latine, and after all this, to be a poore Pen-an-Inck-horne wearer, a *Perdagog*, one that teacheth Schollers for 5. pence the weeke, and at the quarter day is glad to take choake-cheefe, and barrrell butter for the *Summa Totalis*: *Proh deum, atque hominum fidem*. Oh that some fellow which had but a little wit, and no wisdom, might trauerse this Parenthesis: Me thinke I apprehend him already how vnrasonably he would raile vpon the 7. liberall Sciences, with *Peruassus* turn'd to a Molchill, & that *Vulcan*, when he claue *Minerva* out of *Iupiters* braine, had knockt out the braines too, because that he carrying the Muses, as familiars about him, should be pinched with want, when he knoweth many seruile groomes, whose qualities or dimensions are no way surpassing his, promoted from the stable to the table, from the table to the bed. But hee there Signiour: Hee that can picke any thing out of a painted cloath, may perceiue by fortune painted muffled in a tree, throwing downe vpon some, Crownes: others, military weapons: some bagges of Gold; others Sackes of Salt: Some one thing; others another thing: Some must be Kings and ouer-rule all, some must be Souldiers, and fight for their Countrey, some must be husbandmen, and digge commodity from the earth, some must be Astronomers, and plucke profit from the starres: some must haue more than they can carry, and such are richmen: some must be men of good carriage, and can get little, & such are Porters: some must haue liuings enough bequeathed them, and some must not haue so much as an halfe left them: some must lead the world in a string, and some must fence the world in a string: *Qua cum ira fuit* (oh most mutable) I doe not grudge at my calamities, but the causes: *Auerons Macenasses* and dunsticall *Dondegoes*, which will allow a Scholler no more, that should waite them to heauen, then a Sculler that should cary them amongst the Theams, or any other hauens: *Musas facientes Mulos*: Making the Muses, Mules, Iades, or Hacknies: For suppose a Scholler (like olde *Byas*) carrieth all his Lands about him, be intertaynd into any
of

A strange Foot-Post.

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of their houses, as many be: Though he be a good Gramarian, one that can chop Logick, and like the freshman, returning from *Athens*, make three egges of two, and his father eating the two, bad him take the third for his cunning: imagine he can pretty well in Philosophy naturall, and metaphisicall, tell halfe an hundreth lyes out of Pliny: hath some insight in Poetry, and if he had maintenance and countenance would be come a sound Practitioner in the deepest Science: This fellow for all this shal be lodged next the kitchen, where the Cookes, and sculles keepe such a scolding, that they will take order for his studying: or in some ruynous roome, where his Masters Ghosts is reported to walke: and Robin-goodfellow and Hobgoblins, are said to play their sagayries in the night, so that he will take no rest for sleeping and all the day he shall spend himselfe poaring ouer my *Lady Fynes-woulds* capable eldest: and three or foure froward (I should say toward) younger Brothers: for which turmoyles his yearely stipend shall be 5. markes, besides the Patrons, or the Widdowes countenance: Which may be so good that few Schollers hauing reasonable Noses in their faces, would be loath to haue it for forty poundes. Now for his fare, it is lightly at the cheefest Table, but he must sit vnder the Salt, that is an Axiome in such places: and before he take his fear, *Memorandum* he haue two legs in store, one for the Maister, another for the Mistresse: Then hauing drawne his Knife leisurably, vnsoulded his Napkin mannerly, after twice or thrice wypping his Beard (if he haue it) he may reach the Bread on his Knifespoint, and fall to his porridge and betweene euery Sponesfull take as much deliberation, as a Capon cráming (least he be out of his orridge before they haue buried part of their first course in their Bellies) And at the second seruice (if there be any such hot seruice) the refuse of the former shall be set before him, but oftentimes like a rifled Souldier, hauing not so much as a good peece left, or like the picture of death, all bones, which putteth him in minde to decline *bonus, bona, bonum*: but this must be vnderstood to happen

A strange Foot-Post.

happen at an hunting dinner, or after he hath whipped his eldest Scholler, for so long as my young Maister liketh his Scholemaister, and may take no farther at his lesson, then he list, his mother will be most respectiue, but if he once contradict him, and printe winger vpon his posteriors, then lamentations are raised, there is an insurrection amongst the pen-boys *Peter, Brown the horse-keeper* will doe Zauods that he will. The Cook will put poison in his porridge, or worke him some other mischiefe, if he durst: then enters the Fleire, like the *Chorus* in a Tragedy, and telleth all. The mother like a tender hearted *Auditor*, pittieeth the Scene, busseth her boy, and telleth him he shall be beaten no more, No, that he shall not. Thus doth the olde foole hugge young *lackanapes*, till she spoile him: yet heere is not the full *Catastrophe*, for she will neuer rest till she haue lifted him out of her house, and will haue another in his roome, it maketh no matter what he be, so he will not whippe her boy and serue for little wages, he will serue the turne: I mary, this maketh so many wilde youtnes, and wise aged men: When the earth is not well manured, tilled and ploughed, it is rancke, and sterile, and where youth wanteth nurture, age is ignorant, and ill mannered: The Beare by licking her whelpes bringeth them into some forme, but many mothers by lolling their children turne them out of all good fashion. The loue of Parents towards their children is naturall and not to be blamed, but this Cockerling is fond, and hursfull: Waxe being softe, will suffer any impression, and children being young are as capable of goodnes, if they be trayned vp therafter: as they are prone to knauey without any great inducements. The Colt at first backing will curuet, and wish, but after he hath chancked the bit a while, and felt the Spurre in his side, he becometh morotractable: Not an Hedgeplaster but can say, he which will haue a thorne, must cut a thorne, and if they would haue these tender plantes to proue godly Columnnes in the Commonwealt, let them be lope, and dressed in drie season: let them be carefully tutored, and encouraged by faire meanes,

and

A strange Foot-post.

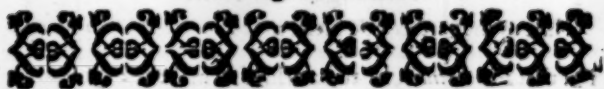
and reasonable recreation : If that will not worke with them, vse a stronger potion: *Qui non vult, duci, debet, trahi*, He that will not goe gently, must be dragged vncourteously: The tranquill gouernement of our commonwealth doth sufficiently manifest, how much our Land is blessed with a thrice worthy King: prouident Counsell, vpright Iudges, learned and well educated Gentlemen, zealous Diuines, any cunning Lawiers enow, yet it may be obserued in some places where many are congregated about publique affaires, others shuffled in, which whilst the others are poising the weightiest matters, sit like Cyphers, and if any question be put vnto them, *Obmutuerunt*; *Putas ne verbum potuisse proloqui*: They can tell the Clocke dandle their gloues, or play with their forepoins, their Mothers taught them those Lessons, when they satte playing with them vpon their Knees: They thinke they pleasure their Country, if they vouchsafe their presence, and grace themselves, if they put of the hatte handsomely, and nod the head with a Clowdy countenance, as who would say, it is an hard case, but *Verbum non amplius*: And what is the cause of this, but whilst the one kept close at their bookes both at home and abroad in the Vniuersity and Innes of Court, the other were yalping after a Kennel of Hounds, in their youth, or whoping at an Owle in an Iuy-bush. Their parents would not be at the cost to maintaine a good Scholler to traine them vpon, nor their Mothers suffer them to indure any hardenesse, or labour: without which true knowledge cannot be attained: And as many of these are carelesse for the well educating of their children: So most of them are supine and negligent of themselves. What careth the couetous Patron, to he can compound to his contentement: Be he one of Bale Priests, or a bald Priest, if he can read the Authorised Service: Be he of what Tribe he will, if he can hobble ouer an homily with a weekes warning: As for monethly Sermons, it is but greasing a Parater; and the

A strange Foot-post.

Churchwarden, is his Tennant: he will be sworne on a booke
to an dūne bene: Infelix oh semper ovis. Too many places are
full of such, which are more meete to be fishermen, then fi-
shers of men, and fitter to catch soales, then, soules, which ei-
ther behaue themselues like the dogge in the Manger, which
neither would eat hay himselfe, nor suffer the beast: Which
either keepe the childrens bread from them, or if they giue
them any, they doe so mōth it, and mangle it, that it becom-
meth most loathsome, comming from such filthy hands, and
handling, which I wish were otherwise, that the pouerties of
poure Schollers might be pittied, their Petitions preferred,
their fortunes bettered, & what is amisse, might be amended.

The poore Scholler.

The Scholler hath frustrated my expectation (said I) for
I did expect he should haue wished ill lucke to light vpon his
enemies as the others haue. Touching his speech I durst
auerre it to be true: for Diones dyne out the Bees, and the
wolues in sheeps cloathing werry the Lambes: They take
the tythes, though they take not the paines. Amongst all
which I thinke it reason, that that Parson should haue tyth
porridge, which out of the heat of a good stomacke (I iudge
it was) taught his parishioners toines in a quarterly Ser-
mon fower wayes to keele a pot, when it began to seeth oter:
A right worthy domesticall Chaplin for Heliogabalus, yet
if you marke, it is a profitable pish of doctrine, for vlesse
it be sellawed, all the fat is in the fire: But how now? who
commeth next? There are many Petitioners behind. How
chaunce they stepe not forward? I perceiue the Beale is
angry, and will suffer no moze to be preferred or brought
into the Citty, till answer be made to the rest that are already
arhibited.



A PROSOPOPAEIA OR
IMAGINED ANSWER TO
THE FORMER PETITIO-
ners. by Dame Fortune

NO more Petitions, I haue heard too much,
Too mischieuous, and monstrous wickednesse,
Nor will I condescend to any such
As seeke by others woe to purchase blisse:
Your suites so wicked, your Petitions full
O sensuall appetites, I disanull.

Fond worldlings, thinke you, that euery furious curse
Belcht gainst your foes, shall bring them to their wracke?
Or euery foolish wish your fancies curse,
Will with an approbation be sent backe?
Then should the world be as it first began,
Repleate with beasts, but dispossess of man.

For as you are by naturall instinct
Infirm, and subiect to affections:
So are your wilfull Supplications linckt
With others ruines, and subuersions:
But he that knoweth best whats good, whats ill,
Pays all, not as they would, but as he will.

And therefore know, that whosoere you curse,
Are not accursed for your curse alone,
Nor they whom you wish punishments, are worse
For your rash wishes publicke or vnknowne:
Nor I my selfe, if that I would, can doe

A strange Foot-Post.

Hurt to the parties, you incite me to.

For that *Ens Entium*, all the worlds first maker,
Existent without fine, and vncreate
Makes any thing the cause and ioynt pertaker
Of his consuming rage, to ruinate
His chiefeft earthly fabricke, when and where
He please, it from a finfull earth to teare.

Thus much in generall: Now I will regresse
More specially to each particular,
And as you did appeare at first, redresse,
To here your answers, which Ile not deferre
With dull procrastinations, but begin
With her, who first put her Petition in.

The answer
to the Harlot Detested woman, shame vnto thy Sexe,
Which prostitut'st thy body vnto all,
Making thy selfe the filth and loathsome sex
That brings thine owne decay and others thrall:
Leaue of thy loathed trading, and be bound
A new to honesty, thats safe and sound.

Consider why thou wert created first
To serue thy Maker, and bring forth increase,
From which, thy loathed life, and quenchles thirst
Of variable lust, compels thee cease.
For thy soule life so odious in heauens eye
Can leaue the world no prosperous progeny.

Next call to minde the pleasures thou hast past,
The dainty fare, sweet musicke, and delight,
How momentarily and soone they wast,
Like to a flash of lightning in the night,
Or like a Larke, that swiftly mounts the skie,
Now scene, but out of prospect by and by.

And

A strange Foot-post.

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And last of all, thinke but vpon thine end,
When Age begins to nestle in thy bones,
What anguishes thy former courses send,
Fraught with heart-wasting aches, pangs and grones:
And after all, how thou art sure to fry,
If thou dost perseuere, eternally.

Thou which hast lausht thy estate, and spent
Thy prime of time, in vnaduis'd excessse,
Do not mispend the residue thats lent
To cure thy cares, and driue thee from distresse:
If thou hast grace, ther's grace inough in store,
For him that truly can that grace implore.

To the Spennard.

Lust, Pride and Riot, wrestling in thy brest,
Haue giuen thy Fortunes, and thy selfe the fall,
Yet lie not groueling with dispaire opprest,
Although thou canst not all tha's past recall,
Thou maist redeeme that thou hast pawn'd to hell,
Thy pittious soule hereafter, liuing well.

Thou country Client with inuectiue Lawes,
Darting thy malice and intestine griefe,
Vpon some bad peruerter of the Lawes,
Shalt ease thy selfe and purchase great reliefe,
By shunning the occasions of thy fals,
Vncharitable deeds, litigious brauls.

To the country Client.

If thou wouldst haue reuenge vpon them all,
Liue orderly, deuoyd of wrong and strife:
So maist thou such contentious wrangles gall,
By leading a contented and mylde life:
For while each petty trespassse, brawl and taunt,
Are tooke in snuffe and dudgeon, Lawyers flaunt.

The Seruingman came next, which hath reuilde

G 3

The

A strange Foot-Post.

The slight rewarding of his youthfull paines,
Though some that trust to others, are beguild,
Yet faithfull seruice oft reaps certaine gaines,
Ingratitude if rise, yet there are such
That deeme no guerdon for their seruants much.

But seeing thou felst (as thy Petition showes)
Betweene the griping clawes of auerous churles,
Impatient speech, proclaim'd against all those,
To further inconuenience hurles
Thy desperate state: how ere it did commence,
Tak't as thy sinnes deserued recompence.

To the Maide
with childe. Thou, which wert credulous to iudge all true
A yong man vttered in the heate of blood,
So piteously dost now too late bedew
Thy cheeks with teares: it is a token good,
If they do trickle from a sorrowing soule,
Not for thy Loues losse, but thy deeds so foule.

Where sores are cureles, ther's no helpe by care
Content will mittigate each Discontent,
Kept as a shield to ward thee from Dispaire,
And fierce assaults of future languishment,
The causer cannot thriue: vyhat heretofore
You did commit, Repent: but sinne no more.

To the Louer You are too hot, too eager, and too keene
Gainst those you loue so well, the female kinde,
Bolting outrageous termes, oreclod'd with spleene,
From the distracted passions of your minde,
Sincerely vertuous, many may be found,
Though some with many vices do abound.

If one haue wrong'd you, wrong not all for one
Nor dote on her, that hath forsaken you,
One precious stone doth cut another stone;

Thers

A strange Foot-Post.

Thers plenty yet abroad, goe get a new,
Seeke with discretion, and doubt not to finde
A constant Mate, that may content thy minde.

Old woman, leaue complayning, 'tis too late
For you to lodge within a youngsters bed,
You are decrepit, and growne out of date
To reyne a flinging Colts, vnweldy head
A prayer booke linckt to your shaking hands
Were fitter farre then youngest wedlocke bandes.

To the olde
woman mar-
ried with the
young man.

Doe not repine, or grudge, young louely creature
At vnescap'd Destiny, Mariage:
Nor macerate with cares your beauteous feature
Banning cannot abate your griefe, nor rage
Nor any other thing salue your disease,
Vntill the cutting Destiny doth please.

To the young
woman mar-
ried to the old
man.

Imagine that thou art a weaned childe
Hugd in the bosome of an aged nurse
Let deeds and wordes be dutifull and milde
Least they doe make thy anguishes the worse,
For in a moment Age with Rage is tost
And waxeth most impatient, being crost.

Thou that Petition'st gainst thy wiues offence
Se thou be cleere thy selfe of the like spot,
Then maist thou with more right thy suite commence,
Or els take quietly thy crooked lot,
For he that strikes with Sword, it is decreed
Shall be restruck with Scabberd, till he bleed.

To the Cuc-
bold.

Couragious Souldier, whose true valorous heart
Was neuer daunted with invading foes
But caus'd thy greatest enemies to start
(At thy assaying them) like timorous Doos,

To the Soul-
dier.

Vanquish

▲ Strange Foot-Post.

Vanquish thy selfe, and chance which pulls thee downe
A thing more mighty then to winne a Towne.

To the Prentise.

Liue carefully young Prentise, be no waster
Of others goods, abandon filthy whores,
And dissolute assemblies: Please thy Maister
And all the night keepe close within his dores,
Roue not about the suburbs and the streetes
When he doth thinke you wrapt betweene your sheets.

Too many take such courses vile and base
To their owne miseries and maisters fall
But if thou doe thy duty in thy place
And providently keepe within thy stall,
When they ride bound, or lurke in some by-lane
Thou maist ride with thy foot-cloth, and gold chaine,

To the Male-content.

Thou that in vaine dost wrangle with thy starres,
And cauill at the factes by others done,
Leaue of thy selfe-destroying ciuill warres,
And intermedling with all others, shunne
Enormeties enow thou hast to mend
If to thine owne affaires thou doe descend.

To all.

And to conclude, let all for certaine know
That Gods reuengefull Yron Bowe is bent
And shaftes in readines to ouerthrow
Synnes harbourers, that doe not soone repent,
*Let each one therefore his vildde courses mend,
A wicked life makes seldome a good end.*

With that, me thought, I saw Fortune transported out
of sight, & the Petitioners made such an humming at her departure, as if it had beene at the applausive end of an Vniuersity oration, or other Scholler like exercise, that they awaked me with the noyse, who in the end, writ the premises.

FINIS.

